

## **Philosophy 4: Introduction to Ethics Spring 2009\***

### **Instructor: Tim Lewis**

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### **Teaching Assistants**

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**Course Web Page:** [www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil4/](http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil4/)

**Texts:** The majority of the required readings for this course are articles that will be available online on the course website. Students are responsible for downloading these readings. There are also two required textbooks, both available at the University Bookstore: *Utilitarianism*, by John Stuart Mill; and the *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, by Immanuel Kant.

**Goals of the Course:** This course is an introduction to ethics, one of the three primary branches of Philosophy. In particular, we will be concerned with two sub-branches of ethics, applied ethics and normative ethics. Applied ethics is concerned with answering particular ethical questions, for example: “When, if ever, is abortion morally permissible” and “Do we have a moral duty to end suffering due to hunger in other countries?”. Normative ethics is concerned with what it is that makes an agent morally good or bad, and an action morally right or wrong, etc. In particular, we will study such normative ethical theories as cultural relativism, ethical egoism, the utilitarianism of J.S. Mill, and Immanuel Kant’s deontological theory.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

Paper 1 (3-4 pages): 25% of your course grade

Paper 2 (4-5 pages): 35% of your course grade

Cumulative Final Exam: 35% of your course grade

Section Participation: 5% of your course grade

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\* The course instructor reserves the right to amend the contents of this syllabus for any reason.

**Late Papers:** Unless a prior arrangement has been made with either the course instructor or your TA, late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day that the paper is late (e.g., a B paper that is turned in two days late will receive a C+).

**Section Participation Policy:** As noted above, section participation counts for 5% of your final course grade. Each student will be allowed to miss two section meetings before it begins to impact their section participation grade.

**Make-up Final Exam Policy:** In, and only in, special circumstances will a student be able to make-up a final exam. If a student needs to arrange a make-up, that student should contact the course instructor as soon as possible to discuss such a possibility and to make the necessary arrangements.

**Please Note:** A student must complete all of the course requirements in order to receive a passing grade in this course. Failure to complete any of the course requirements will result in receiving an F in this course.

**Plagiarism, cheating, and all other forms of academic dishonesty:** I am required (and happy) to report all acts of academic dishonesty, acts which undermine the goals of the University, run contrary to the value of a Higher Education, and are just petty, anyway. If you are at all unclear about what the University policy is on plagiarism and the like, I urge you to consult the section on “Student Conduct and Discipline” in the *University of California, Santa Barbara Campus Regulations Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students*.

**Tentative Broad Course Schedule:**

Week 1: Introduction, Russell on the value of Philosophy.

Weeks 2-3: Applied Ethics 1: Thompson and Marquis on abortion.

Week 4-5: Normative Ethics 1: Cultural Relativism and Ethical Egoism

Week 6-7: Normative Ethics 2: Utilitarianism

Week 8: Applied Ethics 2: Famine, Affluence, and Morality

Week 9: Normative Ethics 2: Kant

Week 10: Applied Ethics 3: Sexual Ethics